

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine falcon How many? 2Location? Grammer Grove, n. Marshall Co., along Iowa RiverType of habitat? river bottom woodlands & higher woodlands on bluffWhen? date(s): Sept. 20, 1986 time: 4:00 - 4:30 to 4:31 (10-15 seconds)
(8-10 seconds)Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdt

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

As we continued our hawk watch on a bluff paralleling the Iowa River (that flows north to south here) we saw a 2nd & 3rd Peregrine of the day (1st documented separately). At 4:00 PM a large falcon came soaring fast & without a wingbeat south into the strong ESE winds, & was gone. It was at treetop height on this bluff, about 20 feet high & 25 yards east of us with the sun shining from behind us. This was a large falcon, crow-sized, with long tapered wings, charcoal-gray back, black helmet (crown, nape & malar stripe), lighter underneath. In the 10-15 seconds it was in view that's all we saw, but enough to know it was a Peregrine.

At 4:30 another Peregrine zipped through, this one even closer - 15 yards away - rushing through an opening between a pine planting & the deciduous trees on the bluff, coming over the trees to the north (our "blind") & across the opening. This too was about 20' high and we saw it 8 to 10 seconds. This was much lighter than the other one, with a light gray-brown back, light brown head, but with a distinct mustache showing. This too had the long tapering wings of a falcon, was crow-sized, going very fast through the opening.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Merlin or buteos or accipiters. —

~~It was~~ falcon shaped so could not be a buteo or accipiter — & ~~it~~ they were they both were much too large to be a Merlin, & had the Peregrine mustache.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

clear skies, sun behind us & at side, 8X30 Nikon binoculars -
1st Peregrine, 25 yards - 2nd Peregrine, 15 yards

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a few PeregrinesReferences and persons consulted before writing description: National Geographic, Peterson, Audubon's Master Guide, Peter Dunne's Hawk watch, RobbinsHow long before field notes made? at once this form completed? October 8, 1986

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